



MARCH GRAIN PRICES WERE MIXED

FEED GRAINS: Prices paid to producers of shelled corn ended the reporting period 4 cents higher, while sorghum prices were 3 cents lower. Government reports, weather, exports, and the other grain prices influenced corn values in March. The Supply Demand report issued March 11 by the USDA, estimated the carryout to increase 75 million bushel to 1.004 billion by the end of the crop year. The sole reason for the increase was the 75 million bushel decrease in the export estimate. The 1.75 billion bushel export estimate was the lowest forecast in 9 years. This was primarily due to the increased competition from China, Argentina, and Brazil in the world markets. The USDA reports that had the biggest positive effect were the Prospective Planting and Quarterly Grain Stocks report released on March 31. Traders had estimated a range of 80.1 to 81.0 million acres of corn to be planted. However, the USDA's forecast was 79.022 million acres, which was considerably below the trade guesses and almost identical to the 2002 acres. Quarterly Grain Stocks for corn were also below the average trade estimates. Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 5.13 billion bushel, down 11% from one year ago, according to USDA's report. The December 2002-February 2003 usage was 2.51 billion bushel, compared to 2.47 billion one year ago. Sorghum plantings nationwide were forecast at 9.451 million acres, down 1% from one year ago. Producers in Illinois were expected to plant 90,000 acres, which is 13% higher than 2002's 80,000 acre crop. Sorghum stocks in all positions in the US totaled 163 million bushel, which was 16% lower than one year ago. Usage for the December 2002-February 2003 period was 69 million bushel, compared to 120 million bushel one year ago. Some weather forecasters believe dry weather will move farther east this year and move deeper into the cornbelt. These assumptions have traders looking at weather forecasts much earlier in the growing season. The slow export pace has definitely pressured corn prices as they are way behind last years pace. Corn inspected for export has totaled 850.8 million bushel by March 27, compared to 1.022 billion bushel one year ago. Also in March, sharply lower prices for wheat have weakened corn prices. Rain in the Plains and slow exports have lowered wheat prices.

SOYBEANS: Prices closed 4 cents lower for the month of March. Government reports, the South American crop, and Chinese exports were again marketing news in March. The Supply Demand report released March 11 by the USDA estimated the carryout would be 160 million bushel, 5 million lower than the February report. Due to slowing demand, the crushing and milling category was cut by 15 million bushel. Steady to increasing demand from China, was one reason to raise export estimates 20 million bushel. At this time, the average price for soybeans was estimated to be in a range from \$5.20 to \$5.60 per bushel. On March 31, the USDA announced the Prospective Planting report. Their forecast was on the high end of traders' estimates at 73.182 million acres, compared to the 2002 Final Acreage of 73.76 million acres. This would be the lowest planted acreage since 1998. Illinois producers intend to plant 10.4 million acres, down 1% from the 10.55 million acres one year ago. Quarterly grain stocks were also considered bearish by traders. Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 1.20 billion bushel, which was 10% lower than one year ago. Disappearance for December 2002-February 2003 totaled 912 million bushel, which was 3% lower from the same period one year ago. The soybean crops in South America continue to do well. In its latest forecast, the USDA estimated the Argentine soybean crop at 35.0 million metric tons, up from the prior report of 33.5 million and 30.0 million last year. This will be from a record high acreage of 12.5 million hectares. As of the first week of March, an estimated 13% of the Brazilian crop had been harvested. The latest estimate for the Brazilian crop by the USDA was unchanged from the prior report at 51.0 million metric tons. China continued to buy US soybeans in March. In the March Supply Demand report, the USDA increased expected soybean exports to China by 1 million tons to 16.0 million for the crop year. Although the South American crop is being harvested, it takes time to make the crop available for export. This is one reason why export sales to China continue for the US.

WHEAT: The average price paid to producers of Soft Red Wheat in Illinois ended the reporting period 32 cents lower. Government reports, improving crop conditions, and a slow export trade were news makers in March. The Supply Demand report released by the USDA on March 11, did forecast another increase in the wheat carryout. A cut of 25 million bushel in the export category was the largest adjustment in the report. It was also expected by the trade. As of March 27, wheat inspected for export totaled 704.3 million bushel, compared to 817.8 million bushel one year ago. The USDA Prospective Planting report, released on March 31, estimated all wheat seedings were expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2003. This was 2% higher than one year ago. Winter wheat will compose 44.3 million acres of the total, 6% higher than one year ago. Of the 44.3 million acres, 31.9 million was to be Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million Soft Red Winter and 4.2 million acres of White Winter. The Quarterly Grain Stocks report released March 31, revealed 905 million bushel of wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2003. This was 25% lower than one year ago. The disappearance for the December 2002-February 2003 was 415 million bushel, just slightly higher than one year ago. Besides slow export sales, the other factor pressuring wheat prices was improving crop conditions. The conditions for the week ended March 30, from the USDA Weekly Crop Progress report, showed the US crop to have 51% in the Excellent to Good category, 35% Fair and 14% Poor to Very Poor. This compares to 31% Excellent to Good, 35% Fair, and 34% Poor to Very Poor one year ago. The Illinois wheat crop for 2003 posted 72% in the Excellent to Good category, 26% Fair, and only 2% Poor to Very Poor. Just one year ago, the Illinois wheat crop had 68% rated Excellent to Good, 31% Fair, and 1% Poor to Very Poor.

Eastern Cornbelt Direct Feeder Cattle

Compared to last month Eastern Cornbelt (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio) feeder cattle were mostly 1.00-3.00 higher on cattle over 600 lbs. Demand was light to moderate and trading was slow to moderate. Early month cattle prices were sharply lower but stronger futures prices and improved buyer interest strengthened prices at month's end. Confirmed sales for the month: 3900 head. Feeder steers: Medium and Large Frame 1-2: small lot 489 lbs 95.00; 600-650 lbs 81.00-85.00; 650-700 lbs 85.00-89.00; 700-875 lbs 77.00-79.00. Holstein steers: Medium and Large Frame 3: 700-800 lbs 64.7566.25. Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large Frame 1-2: 400-625 lbs 81.00-84.00; 675-750 lbs 77.50-79.00.

Eastern Cornbelt Sheep

Eastern cornbelt slaughter lamb prices were 5.00-8.00 higher for lambs over 90 lbs compared to last month. Lambs under 90 lbs were 4.00-8.00 lower. Ewe prices were 8.00-10.00 lower. Goats remained steady. Demand was moderate to good. Trading was moderate to active. Tight supplies, sharply higher carcass lamb prices and continued good demand pushed lamb prices higher early in the trading period but at month's end the market started to weaken. Light lambs and ewe prices were weaker as the end of the Muslim holiday season led to decreased demand for those markets. Total monthly sales were 4400 head of lambs and ewes with an additional 2300 head of goats. Slaughter Lambs: Choice 2-3 90-130 lbs 90.00-95.00, few up to 100.00; 50-70 lbs few 106.00-112.00. Slaughter Ewes: Utility to Good 1-3: 35.00-40.00; Cull to Utility: few 25.00-35.00. Slaughter Goats (cwt.): Kids: Selection 2: 20-40 lbs 92.00-102.00; 40-60 lbs 90.00-92.00. Selection 3: 20-60 lbs 50.00-57.00. Yearlings: Selection 2: 70-90 lbs 57.00-62.00. Does/Nannies and Bucks/Billies: Selection 2-3: 80-125 lbs 45.00-50.00.

Eastern Cornbelt Hog

Barrows and gilts in the Eastern Cornbelt were firm to 2.50 higher on a carcass basis. Base market plant delivered price range was 40.00-49.50 with an average of 46.96. Trading activity was moderate to good, although larger than expected slaughter numbers pressured market values. Monthly Hog and Pig report released on March 28 showed U.S. inventory down 2 percent from a year ago at 58.1 million head and Breeding inventory down 4 percent from a year ago at 5.96 million head. The slaughter at the end of March totaled 25,858,000 head, which was .7 percent ahead of last year. Sows ended with light to moderate demand for all weights and supplies were moderate. Prices ended steady to 2.00 lower. US 1-3 300-400 lbs 18.00-22.00; 400-500 lbs 22.00-24.00; 500-600 lbs 24.00-26.00 few over 600 lbs 25.00-28.00; Boars: under 300 lbs 18.00-22.00; over 300 lbs 4.00-6.00. Feeder Pigs: SEW 10-lb pigs were lower for the month On March 28, with a Composite of 25,261 head, prices ranged from 24.00-31.64 and the weighted average of 27.53.

**Farmers Livestock Marketing Assoc.
Auction at Greenville, IL. April 2, 2003**

Cattle and calves: Compared to last week, slaughter steers and heifers were mostly 1.00 higher. Supply mainly Choice steers and heifers. Large supply of Holstein steers. Total Receipts this week: 850 Last week: 770 Last year: 1160
SLAUGHTER STEERS: Choice 2-4 1025-1500 lbs 76.00-79.00; 1500-1600 lbs 69.00-72.00. High Yielding 1100-1400 lbs 78.00-80.00, few up to 81.00. 1500-1600 lbs 71.00-73.00. Select and Choice 2-3 1000-1400 lbs 74.00- 77.00. Select 2-3 925-1375 lbs 70.00-74.00, low yielding 67.00-70.00. **HOLSTEIN STEERS:** Choice 2-3 1200-1800 lbs 64.00-68.00, few gaunt 69.00 and 69.50. Select and Choice 2-3 1175-1500 lbs 62.00-64.00. Select 2-3 1150-1600 lbs 58.00-62.00, low yielding 53.00-58.00.
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: Choice 2-4 1000-1400 lbs 76.00-79.00; high yielding 78.00-80.00, few up to 81.00. Select and Choice 2-3 950-1275 lbs 74.00- 77.00. Select 2-3 950-1250 lbs 70.00-74.00. **HEIFERETTES:** Medium and Large Frame 1075-1650 lbs 44.00-53.00.
FEEDER CATTLE: Compared with last week, Feeder Steers and Heifers were generally steady. Overall quality was comparable to last weeks level. **FEEDER STEERS:** Medium and Large 1: thin 300-400 lbs 88.00-95.00, Fancy 95.00-96.00; 400-500 lbs 85.00-91.00; 500-600 lbs 82.00-87.00; 600-700 lbs 76.00-84.00; 700-800 lbs 73.00-78.00. Moderately fleshy: 300-400 lbs 84.00-90.00; 400-500 lbs 78.00-85.00; 500-600 lbs 74.00-82.00; 600-700 lbs 70.00-76.00; 700-800 lbs 68.00-73.00. Medium and Large Frame 1-2: 300-400 lbs 80.00-84.00; 400-500 lbs 72.00-80.00; 500-600 lbs 70.00-75.00. **FEEDER HOLSTEINS** Large Frame 3: 400-500 lbs 68.00-76.00, pkg preconditioned 600 lbs at 60.50. **FEEDER HEIFERS:** Medium and Large Frame 1: thin 300-400 lbs 80.00-88.00; 400-500 lbs 75.00-81.00, Fancy 81.00-83.00; 500-600 lbs 72.00-78.00, Fancy 78.00-81.00; 600-700 lbs 67.00-72.00. Moderately fleshy: 300-400 lbs 74.00- 80.00; 400-500 lbs 71.00-75.00; 500-600 lbs 67.00-72.00. Medium and Large Frame 1-2: 300-400 lbs 67.00-74.00; 400-500 lbs 65.00-71.00. Return to Farm Calves: Holstein males 100-200 lbs 70.00-150.00/hd. **COW/CALF PAIRS:** Medium to Large Frame 1-10 yrs old 850-1000 lbs 460.00-590.00/pr. **BRED COWS:** Large Frame 1-10 yrs old in 2nd and 3rd stage 900-1200 lbs 450.00-580.00/hd; 1200-1700 lbs 560.00-675.00/hd. Medium to Large Frame 1-10 yrs old 725-1000 lbs 350.00-500.00/hd. **REPLACE-MENT BULLS:** Few Black Large Frame 1 yr old 1050-1160 lbs 850.00- 975.00/hd. Slaughter Cows and Bulls: 150 head. Compared to last week, both classes were firm to 1.00 higher.
SLAUGHTER COWS: %Lean Weight Price Hi Yielding Breakers 75-80 % 850-1200 lbs 37.00-40.00 Boners 80-85 % 850-1200 lbs 39.00-42.00 High Yield 80-85 % over 1100 lbs 40.00-43.00 Lean 85-90 % 850-1200 lbs 35.00-38.00 85-90 % 750- 850 lbs 32.00-35.00 85-90 % under- 750 lbs 25.00-32.00 **BULLS:** Yield Grade 1-2 1300-2150 lbs 43.00-47.00. Yield Grade 1 1800-2000 lbs 47.00-49.00.

**Walnut Livestock Auction at Walnut, IL
April 3, 2003**

Total Slaughter Cattle: 585 head Last Week 445 Last Year 500 Compared to last week, slaughter steers and heifers were 2.00 higher. Quality was above normal with good demand for all classes. Holstein steers about 11%
SLAUGHTER STEERS: Choice 2-3 1200-1400 lbs 81.00-83.60, high yielding 84.25. YG 4-5 1460-1555 lbs 76.50-78.50. Select and Choice 2-3 1150-1430 lbs 77.00-80.75. Select 2-3 1070-1225 lbs 75.00-79.00. **HOLSTEIN STEERS:** Choice 2-3 1220-1286 lbs 74.50-76.25, high yielding 77.00. Select and Choice 2-3 1200-1600 lbs 72.50-75.50. Select 2-3 1100-1500 lbs 70.00-73.00. **SLAUGHTER HEIFERS:** Choice 2-3 1000-1230 lbs 79.75-82.85, high yielding 84.00. YG 4-5 1185-1588 lbs 65.00-79.85. Select and Choice 2-3 1000-1150 lbs 77.75-80.75. Select 2-3 900-1200 lbs 77.00-80.75. Slaughter Cows and Bulls:
SLAUGHTER COWS: % Lean Weight Bulk Price Hi yielding Lo Yielding Commercial 70-75% 1425-1750 lbs 40.50-46.50 Breakers 75-80% 1160-1540 lbs 37.50-41.00 Boners 80-85% 1065-1355 lbs 34.00-37.50 Lean 85-90% 1025-1125 lbs 25.00-32.00
SLAUGHTER BULLS: YG 1& 2 1000-1120 lbs 47.50-50.50; 1200-1730 lbs 46.00-47.50. Plain 1120-1595 lbs 37.50-43.00.

**Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Livestock Futures**

Cattle: Live Cattle

| | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Apr. | 76.87 | 74.60 | 70.12 |
| Jun. | 71.30 | 69.67 | 64.80 |
| Aug. | 68.02 | 68.80 | 63.32 |
| Oct. | 69.72 | 69.00 | 67.05 |
| Dec. | 71.30 | 70.10 | 68.85 |

Cattle: Feeder Steers

| | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| Apr. | 78.70 | 75.62 | 77.50 |
| May | 78.45 | 76.80 | 77.45 |
| Aug. | 81.92 | 79.97 | 80.60 |
| Sept. | 81.90 | 79.85 | 80.45 |
| Oct. | 81.92 | -- | 80.42 |

Hogs: Lean Value

| | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Apr. | 49.85 | 51.87 | 46.95 |
| June | 58.85 | 61.90 | 57.77 |
| July | 58.82 | 60.35 | 56.45 |
| Aug. | 58.20 | 59.52 | 54.05 |
| Oct. | 51.60 | 51.70 | 46.25 |

Pork Bellies:

| | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| May | 89.70 | 86.80 | 70.65 |
| July | 90.45 | 87.12 | 71.35 |
| Aug. | 87.85 | 84.25 | 70.15 |
| Feb. | 79.92 | -- | -- |

Automated Market Information Service
 Automated Market Information System (AMIS) is available from the Illinois Department of Agriculture. It is possible for the caller to select from a variety of market information. By dialing (217) 782-2055, using a touchtone telephone, the caller can select any of the following reports just by punching the number of the report:
 1. Illinois direct hog prices
 2. Illinois direct cattle prices
 3. Futures prices from the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Merchant Exchange
 4. Grain prices received at country elevators

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Estimated Hide & Offal Value

The average value from a 1,000 pound slaughter steer for the 5-day period ended:

| | | | |
|---------|------|---------|------|
| Apr. 3 | 8.21 | Mar. 6 | 8.16 |
| Mar. 27 | 8.23 | Feb. 27 | 8.13 |
| Mar. 20 | 8.03 | Feb. 20 | 8.06 |
| Mar. 13 | 8.06 | Feb. 13 | 7.98 |

**Estimated Carcass Value Based
On Fabricated Beef Cuts**

Value based on fabricated beef cuts from Choice 2-3 600-750 lbs. beef carcass.

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Apr. 3 | 129.20 | Mar. 6 | 128.62 |
| Mar. 27 | 127.01 | Feb. 27 | 129.82 |
| Mar. 20 | 125.36 | Feb. 20 | 126.11 |
| Mar. 13 | 124.22 | Feb. 13 | 129.26 |

Pork Carcass Cutout Value

Gross cutout values of 185 lbs. 51-52% lean hog carcasses based on carlot prices of pork cuts and yields from USDA cutting tests-FOB Omaha basis.

| | | | |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Apr. 3 | 53.81 | Mar. 6 | 53.80 |
| Mar. 27 | 54.20 | Feb. 27 | 54.04 |
| Mar. 20 | 56.80 | Feb. 20 | 53.50 |
| Mar. 13 | 55.12 | Feb. 13 | 53.30 |

Eastern Cornbelt Direct Feeder Pigs

All pigs sold on a per head basis, picked up at the sellers farm. Prices are a weighted average for estimated 50-54% lean at slaughter wt. Receipts for the 4 wks. ended March 28, 2003 totaled 75,570 head for six weight groups.

| Week ended | 10lbs. | 40lbs. | 50lbs. |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Mar. 28 | 27.53 | 51.00 | 46.70 |
| Mar. 21 | 27.38 | 52.00 | 50.00 |
| Mar. 14 | 27.91 | - | 46.05 |
| Mar. 7 | 28.20 | - | 46.51 |

**Estimated Weekly Livestock Slaughter
Under Federal Inspection**

| Weekended | Cattle | Hogs | Sheep |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Mar. 28 | 629,000 | 1,906,000 | 64,000 |
| Mar. 21 | 618,000 | 1,879,000 | 52,000 |
| Mar. 14 | 616,000 | 1,915,000 | 52,000 |
| Mar. 7 | 636,000 | 1,907,000 | 55,000 |

Meat Production

Total slaughter under Federal inspection (millions lbs.) and average live weights.

| Week Ended: | Beef | Pork |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mar. 28 | 470.1-1245 lbs. | 379.6-268 lbs. |
| Mar. 21 | 496.5-1253 lbs. | 380.4-267 lbs. |
| Mar. 14 | 491.0-1258 lbs. | 377.8-267 lbs. |
| Mar. 7 | 482.2-1262 lbs. | 378.0-267 lbs. |

Eastern Cornbelt Direct Hog Trade

| Hot Carcass Values, Plant Delivered (185 lb. carcass, head off packer style) | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Percent Lean | 49-50% | 51-52% | 53-54% |
| 10th rib backfat | .90-.99" | .75-.89" | .60-.74" |
| Apr. 3 | 40.75-50.50 | 42.83-52.22 | 43.24-53.08 |
| Mar. 27 | 40.25-53.26 | 42.75-54.51 | 42.75-55.51 |
| Mar. 20 | 41.50-53.25 | 44.00-54.50 | 44.00-55.50 |
| Mar. 13 | 42.50-51.57 | 45.00-52.82 | 45.00-53.82 |

**Chicago Board of Trade
Closing Futures Contract Prices
(dollars per bushel)**

| | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Wheat | | | |
| May | 2.81 1/2 | 3.13 3/4 | 2.80 1/2 |
| July | 2.86 1/4 | 3.11 1/4 | 2.86 |
| Sept. | 2.90 1/2 | 3.16 | 2.91 1/2 |
| Dec. | 3.01 1/2 | 3.26 | 3.02 1/4 |
| Mar. | 3.07 | — | 3.07 1/2 |
| Corn | | | |
| May | 2.38 3/4 | 2.40 1/4 | 2.01 1/2 |
| July | 2.39 1/4 | 2.42 1/4 | 2.07 3/4 |
| Sept. | 2.38 3/4 | 2.42 1/4 | 2.14 |
| Dec. | 2.39 3/4 | 2.43 1/2 | 2.22 1/4 |
| Mar. | 2.45 | — | 2.30 3/4 |
| Oats | | | |
| May | 1.84 1/4 | 1.87 | 2.15 1/4 |
| July | 1.62 | 1.76 1/2 | 1.68 3/4 |
| Sept. | 1.50 1/2 | 1.59 | 1.44 |
| Dec. | 1.48 | — | 1.42 |
| Soybeans | | | |
| May | 5.85 1/4 | 5.62 1/4 | 4.59 |
| July | 5.82 3/4 | 5.60 1/4 | 4.63 1/4 |
| Aug. | 5.70 | 5.50 1/2 | 4.62 1/4 |
| Sept. | 5.40 | 5.33 1/2 | 4.58 1/4 |
| Nov. | 5.16 1/2 | 5.16 1/4 | 4.61 1/2 |
| Jan. | 5.19 | — | 4.65 |
| Mar. | 5.21 1/2 | — | 4.69 |
| Soybean Oil (cents/lb.) | | | |
| May | 21.73 | 20.54 | 16.32 |
| July | 21.82 | 20.65 | 16.58 |
| Aug. | 21.71 | 20.57 | 16.71 |
| Sept. | 21.42 | 20.43 | 16.85 |
| Oct. | 20.92 | 20.18 | 16.98 |
| Dec. | 20.62 | 19.88 | 17.25 |
| Jan. | 20.45 | — | 17.37 |
| Soybean Meal (dollars/ton) | | | |
| May | 171.80 | 171.90 | 155.40 |
| July | 171.10 | 170.10 | 154.60 |
| Aug. | 166.60 | 165.20 | 153.50 |
| Sept. | 159.40 | 161.30 | 152.00 |
| Oct. | 152.00 | 154.80 | 150.70 |
| Dec. | 151.40 | 153.80 | 151.40 |
| Jan. | 151.40 | — | 151.50 |

**Central Illinois Soybean
Processor
Bids and Offers
(Average Price)**

| | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Crude Soybean Oil | 22.30 | 21.16 | -- |
| Soybean Meal | | | |
| *44% FOB Plant Rail | -- | -- | -- |
| 48% FOB Plant Rail | 173.00 | 177.00 | 158.00 |
| *44% FOB Plant Truck | -- | -- | -- |
| 48% FOB Plant Truck | 178.00 | 179.50 | 162.00 |
| #1 Soybean | 5.94 1/4 | 5.69 3/4 | 4.62 |

*discontinued 1-1-02

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**Hay Market Report
as of April 3, 2003**

All hay prices quoted dollars per ton FOB the farm, small square bales unless otherwise noted. Straw quoted in dollars per bale and by the ton. Illinois hay prices were mostly steady in March with moderate hay sales. While sales were active in early March, they slowed to a light to moderate range near the end of the month. Demand was moderate to good with moderate to light offerings. This report was produced from sales of 1980 tons of hay and straw. While hay prices on the producer level were mostly steady, prices at auctions in Illinois remained firm. The values for some of the lower quality hay edged higher. Demand remained good from dairy and horse interests. With the alfalfa crop starting to green up, most of the southern and central Illinois stands look to be in great shape. Producers in Northern Illinois need more time to evaluate their crop. Straw prices were steady to weak. Demand was light for moderate to heavy offerings, with demand just getting a good start from the landscaping industry. Northern: Northern Illinois hay trading was moderate and prices were mostly steady. Demand was moderate with moderate to light supplies. Straw prices were steady with demand light. Premium alfalfa 130-140, with some up to 160; 125-150 in big squares; Good alfalfa 100-125, 100-130 in big squares, 70-90 in big rounds; Fair alfalfa 90-100, 95-115 in big squares; Utility alfalfa 55-75 in big squares. Premium Mix 125-140, 120 in big squares; Good Mix 100-125, 100-120 in big squares, 90-105 in big rounds; Fair Mix 90-100, 65 in big squares; Utility 80-85, 50-55 in big squares. Premium Grass 120; Good grass 90-115, 90 in big squares and 90 in big rounds; Fair Grass 65-75, 65-75 in big rounds. Straw 1.00-2.00 per bale in small squares, 45-65 in big squares or 60-80 per ton for small squares. Central: Central Illinois hay sales were moderate with prices mostly steady with demand moderate to good. Straw prices were steady with light demand. Premium alfalfa 120-140, with some up to 160, 145 in big squares; Good alfalfa 110-130, 100-115 in big squares, 70-80 in big rounds; Fair Alfalfa 95-115, 60-70 in big rounds, 90-110 in big squares; Utility alfalfa 60-80, 40-50 in big rounds. Premium Mix 120-140, Good Mix 105-125; 70-95 in big squares; 60 in big rounds; Fair Mix 80-90; 65-75 in big squares, 65 in big rounds. Premium Grass 100-120, 90 in big rounds; Good Grass 80-100, 60-80 in big rounds; Fair Grass 60-80, Utility 50-60. Straw was mostly 1.00-2.00 per bale, 45-55 ton in big squares, mostly 60-80 per ton for small squares. Southern: Southern Illinois producers reported hay trading moderate with moderate demand. Prices were mostly steady. Interest still remains from the dairy and horse industry. The alfalfa crop was coming out of dormancy in fine shape with no indications of winterkill. The warm temperatures near the end of the month had growers anxious about weevil activity. Straw prices were steady to weak with very light demand. Premium alfalfa 140, with some up to 160; 150-160 in big squares; Good alfalfa 120-140, 130-145 in big squares; Fair Alfalfa 90-115, 80-115 big squares, 85 in big rounds; Utility Alfalfa 60-90, 55 in big squares. Premium Mix 130-150, 130-140 big squares; Good Mix 110-130; Fair Mix 90-110; Utility Mix 75-85 in big rounds. Premium Grass 120-130; Good Grass 90-120, 90 in big rounds; Fair Grass 85-100, 85 in big rounds; Utility Grass 60-85. Straw was mostly 1.00-2.00 per bale or 45-55 in big squares; 35-40 big rounds, or 60-80 per ton for small squares.

**St. Louis Cash Grain
Bids to Producers
Delivered to St. Louis**

| Grain | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | -dollars per bushel- | | |
| Corn | 2.50-2.51 | 2.54-2.55 | 2.07-2.08 |
| Soybeans | 5.97-5.98 | 5.78-5.79 | 4.61-4.62 |
| Soft Wheat | 3.14-3.15 | 3.36-3.37 | 2.91-2.92 |
| Sorghum | 2.54-2.55 | 2.52-2.53 | 2.07-2.08 |

**Chicago Cash Grain
30 Day Delivery Time*
(Average Price)**

| | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Wheat | 3.04 1/2 | 3.31 3/4 | 2.85 1/2 |
| Corn : | | | |
| Terminals | 2.44 3/4 | 2.44 3/4 | 1.98 1/2 |
| Processors | 2.48 1/4 | 2.49 | 2.03 1/2 |
| Soybeans | 5.86 3/4 | 5.65 1/4 | 4.55 |
| *Truck or Rail | | | |

**Feedstuffs
(Wholesale prices, dollars
per ton, bulk)**

| Feedstuffs | 04-01-03 | 03-04-03 | 04-02-02 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Soybean Meal 48% | | | |
| Chicago | 182.00 | 190.00 | 173.00 |
| St. Louis | 187.50 | 188.50 | 177.00 |
| Decatur | 172.00 | 180.00 | 163.00 |
| Meat Meal 50% | | | |
| St. Louis | 186.00 | 191.00 | 190.00 |
| Gluten Feed | | | |
| IL Prod. Pts. | 65.00 | 67.00 | 55.00 |
| St. Louis | 76.00 | 76.50 | 68.50 |
| Gluten Meal 60% | | | |
| IL Prod. Pts. | 221.00 | 235.00 | 217.50 |
| St. Louis | 244.00 | 250.00 | 231.00 |
| Hominy Feed | | | |
| IL Prod. Pts. | 71.00 | 77.00 | 66.00 |
| St. Louis | 88.00 | 76.00 | 77.50 |
| Brewer's Dried Gr. | | | |
| Newark, N.J. | 94.00 | 88.00 | 83.00 |
| Williamsburg, VA | 84.00 | 78.00 | 73.00 |
| Wheat Middlings | | | |
| Chicago | 61.00 | 71.50 | 62.50 |
| St. Louis | 65.00 | 76.00 | 81.50 |
| Alfalfa Meal Deh. 17% | | | |
| Toledo | 178.00 | 177.50 | 168.50 |
| Cottonseed Meal 41% Solvent | | | |
| St. Louis, MO | 158.00 | 159.00 | 140.00 |
| Distillers Dried Grains | | | |
| Central Illinois | 93.50 | 92.50 | 70.50 |
| Lawrenceburg, IN | 97.00 | 85.00 | 70.00 |
| Cane Feed Molasses 43% Sugars | | | |
| Upper Mis. River | 82.50 | 82.50 | 85.00 |
| New Orleans | 60.00 | 60.00 | 67.50 |

River Barge Bids to Producers

| Grain | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | -dollars per bushel- | | |
| | | | |
| South of St. Louis (Mississippi River) | | | |
| Corn | 2.41-2.45 | 2.42-2.52 | 2.00-2.03 |
| Soybeans | 5.89-5.95 | 5.66-5.77 | 4.57-4.61 |
| Soft Wheat | 3.12-3.14 | 3.33-3.39 | 2.88-2.89 |
| North of St. Louis (Illinois River) | | | |
| Corn | 2.39-2.42 | 2.41-2.43 | 1.98-2.02 |
| Soybeans | 5.87-5.89 | 5.63-5.66 | 4.52-4.55 |
| Soft Wheat | - | - | - |

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INTERIOR ILLINOIS GRAIN PRICES, CENTS PER BUSHEL DELIVERED TO COUNTRY ELEVATOR

| Area and Commodity | 04-03-03 | | 03-27-03 | | 03-20-03 | | 03-13-03 | | 04-04-02 | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| | Cash | Contract* | Cash | Contract* | Cash | Contract* | Cash | Contract* | Cash | Contract** |
| NORTHERN | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2 Corn | 222-234 | 211-218 | 213-229 | 202-210 | 217-232 | 209-214 | 218-228 | 204-216 | 181-187 | 183-191 |
| #1 Soybeans | 561-572 | 485-490 | 555-565 | 482-492 | 550-560 | 481-490 | 549-560 | 484-492 | 429-439 | 422-431 |
| WESTERN | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2 Corn | 221-229 | 204-216 | 213-221 | 197-200 | 219-225 | 202-217 | 219-226 | 203-215 | 180-187 | 180-200 |
| #1 Soybeans | 564-575 | 488-500 | 558-572 | 486-502 | 552-562 | 485-502 | 554-564 | 485-505 | 430-444 | 422-446 |
| N. CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2 Corn | 230-237 | 212-223 | 221-230 | 205-215 | 226-234 | 209-220 | 228-235 | 211-222 | 184-194 | 186-200 |
| #1 Soybeans | 574-581 | 485-499 | 567-575 | 485-501 | 561-570 | 482-499 | 562-571 | 485-498 | 441-447 | 428-435 |
| July Wheat | | 252-259 | | 252-260 | | 261-269 | | 268-276 | | |
| S. CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2 Corn | 229-242 | 211-230 | 223-232 | 204-220 | 226-239 | 201-224 | 229-240 | 211-227 | 187-195 | 189-205 |
| #1 Soybean | 570-589 | 488-507 | 564-584 | 489-506 | 557-579 | 485-504 | 560-578 | 488-505 | 436-455 | 428-446 |
| #2 Soft Wheat | - | 255-258 | - | 253-259 | - | 260-268 | - | 273-274 | - | 251-261 |
| WABASH | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2 Corn | 243-254 | 220-225 | 235-245 | 212-217 | 240-250 | 215-221 | 242-251 | 219-224 | 187-196 | 190-200 |
| #1 Soybean | 584-589 | 494-502 | 580-584 | 497-504 | 574-582 | 494-502 | 575-582 | 496-504 | 448-453 | 432-439 |
| #2 Soft Wheat | 282-291 | 266-278 | 284-293 | 266-278 | 295-304 | 275-287 | 303-312 | 282-294 | 254-271 | 260-274 |
| #2 Sorghum | 238-239 | - | 228-229 | - | 234-235 | - | 235-236 | - | - | - |
| WEST SOUTHWEST | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2 Corn | 229-241 | 214-221 | 220-231 | 207-213 | 225-236 | 211-216 | 232-238 | 211-219 | 185-193 | 187-195 |
| #1 Soybeans | 575-582 | 496-506 | 567-578 | 497-507 | 561-573 | 495-506 | 567-576 | 496-507 | 438-449 | 432-442 |
| #2 Soft Wheat | 287-296 | 263-271 | 269-294 | 262-270 | 280-298 | 270-280 | 298-310 | 272-287 | 268-290 | 259-286 |
| #2 Sorghum | 230-233 | - | 218-230 | - | 215-230 | - | 222-230 | - | 182-188 | - |
| LITTLE EGYPT | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2 Corn | 240-249 | 221-225 | 241-242 | 213-217 | 246-247 | 217-221 | 248-249 | 209-224 | 194-196 | 195-197 |
| #1 Soybeans | 578-589 | 495-500 | 582-586 | 497-502 | 577-581 | 495-500 | 566-581 | 496-503 | 446-452 | 430-437 |
| #2 Soft Wheat | 291-293 | 261-271 | 293-295 | 260-271 | 304-306 | 279-280 | 312-314 | 272-287 | 257-271 | 261-274 |
| #2 Sorghum | 244-245 | - | 258-259 | - | 263-264 | - | 265-266 | - | 179-207 | - |

*Contract is new crop

**March corn and beans, June/July wheat

Average Country Elevator Bids

| Grain | 04-03-03 | 03-06-03 | 04-04-02 | 4Wk Avg. |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Corn | 2.36 | 2.38 | 1.89 | 2.32 |
| Soybeans | 5.77 | 5.55 | 4.43 | 5.66 |
| Soft Wheat | 2.90 | 3.21 | 2.68 | 2.94 |
| Sorghum | 2.38 | 2.48 | 1.89 | 2.39 |

Grains: Inspections for Export

(1,000 Bushels)

| Grain | Week Ended | | | Season To Date | |
|-----------|------------|----------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| | 03/27/03 | 03/20/03 | 03/28/02 | This Year | Last Year |
| Wheat | 20,458 | 12,219 | 14,364 | 704,275 | 817,825 |
| Rye | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oats | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Barley | 0 | 0 | 12 | 13,196 | 20,719 |
| Flaxseed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,745 | 2,233 |
| Corn | 31,122 | 27,717 | 40,279 | 850,780 | 1,022,858 |
| Sorghum | 1,887 | 1,658 | 2,258 | 91,902 | 133,202 |
| Soybeans | 12,204 | 27,924 | 13,801 | 856,269 | 847,045 |
| Sunflower | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,261 |
| Total | 65,671 | 69,518 | 70,480 | 2,519,167 | 2,846,148 |

The crop marketing year beginning June 1 for Wheat, Rye, Oats, Barley and Flaxseed; September 1 for Corn, Sorghum, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seeds. Includes waterway shipments to Canada.